

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 IO-14 OMB-01

DRC-01 /123 W

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R 050729Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3329

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 3429

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AS

SUBJECT: LIBERAL AND COUNTRY PARTIES CHOOSE LEADERS: LABOR CAUCUS

SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 10

REF: CANBERRA 3342

1. AT SEPARATE MEETINGS ON JUNE 4 LIBERAL AND COUNTRY PARTIES RE-ELECTED THEIR PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS. SNEDDEN AND PHILLIP P. LYNCH WILL CONTINUE TO BE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER, RESPECTIVELY, OF LIBERAL PARTY, AND DOUG ANTHONY AND IAN SINCLAIR WILL REMAIN AS LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF COUNTRY PARTY. LIBERAL SENATE LEADERSHIP WILL NOT BE CHOSEN UNTIL FINAL SENATE RESULTS AVAILABLE. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT A JOINT LIBERAL-COUNTRY SHADOW MINISTRY WILL ULTIMATELY BE APPOINTED, ALTHOUGH NO ACTION YET TAKEN IN THIS REGARD.

2. IN PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER COUNTRY PARTY MEETING JUNE 4 ANTHONY REITERATED VIEW THAT OPPOSITION HAD MADE RIGHT MOVE IN
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FORCING GOVERNMENT TO ELECTIONS ON MAY 18, AND HE DECLINED

TO RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF THIS ACTION BEING REPEATED IF
OPPOSITION MAINTAINS A MAJORITY IN THE SENATE.

3. PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM APPROVED ISSUANCE OF INVITATIONS TO
LABOR PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS MEETING JUNE 10, AT WHICH LABOR LEADER,
DEPUTY LEADER, AND MINISTRY WILL BE ELECTED. PRIME MINISTER WILL
SUBSEQUENTLY DISTRIBUTE PORTFOLIOS AMONG MEMBERS OF MINISTRY.
WHITLAM CANCELLED SCHEDULED PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 4, LEADING TO
PRESS SPECULATION THAT HE WISHED TO AVOID BEING QUESTIONED ON
HIS VIEWS REGARDING ELECTION OF DEPUTY LABOR LEADER. PRESS
SPECULATION ON PROSPECTS OF ELECTION OF DR. J. F. CAIRNS,
PROMINENT LEFTIST, AS DEPUTY LEADER, REPLACING LANCE BARNARD,
HAS BEGUN TO SUGGEST THAT CAIRNS MAY NOT BE ELECTED AFTER ALL, IN
INTERESTS OF NOT ROCKING THE BOAT AND PROVOKING A GENERAL CHANGE
IN COMPOSITION OF MINISTRY. HOWEVER, SITUATION REMAINS VERY
UNCERTAIN. POLITICKING WITHIN LABOR PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ON
THIS MATTER IS FAIRLY INTENSE AT THIS POINT AND WILL PROBABLY
INCREASE FURTHER OVER THE WEEKEND.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

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